



City Manager's Office
Communications Division
PO Box 1810
Wilmington, NC 28402-1810

910 342-2736
910 341-5839 fax
wilmingtonnc.gov
Dial 711 TTY/Voice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shipyard sewer pipe spill repaired

City crews have successfully repaired the portion of pipe that failed on Thursday following heavy rains and storm water flow from Hurricane Ophelia. The pipe is a 24-inch waste water pipe main that feeds into the Southside Waste Water Treatment Plant. City officials are working today to determine the amount of waste water that spilled out, but added that a portion of that was put back into the system via manholes and tankers. Much of the rest of the spill flowed into storm water drains, which eventually flows into Hewlett's Creek.

As of 11:30 a.m., parts of Shipyard Boulevard remain closed to traffic due to the spill. Portions of PineValley Drive and Jeb Stuart Drive are also still closed to all but local traffic, but officials expect all of the roads to re-open by 2:30 p.m. today.

Flow from the spill was initially contained by a berm early Thursday afternoon, but that berm broke because of the high volume of water at about 5 p.m. on Thursday. Several nearby yards were flooded initially, but that had substantially subsided by 10 p.m. on Thursday.

Beginning this afternoon, contracted crews will begin cleaning up properties impacted by the spill. Work will continue on Saturday. Residents are being updated about the repair and cleanup efforts by hand-delivered letters today.

The break was caused by a split that was repaired early Friday morning with a clamp placed around the pipe. City staff have already begun working on plans for a permanent repair to replace a portion of the pipe. A timeline for that has not yet been established.

There is no threat to drinking water and waste water services have not been interrupted. However, as a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water.

The city notified residents in the affected area, both by door-to-door notification and distributing fliers. Signs were erected. State, county and health department officials have been notified as well.

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For more information, contact City PIO Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.